



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

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Class of 1988

Class Agents

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Greetings Gentlemen,

Well, Big Bash 2013 is in the books now. Our 25th Reunion has come and gone in memorable fashion. I will give everyone the rundown on numbers and the like in a moment. First, I would to say thank you to everyone who participated in making this such a successful event. If you were at Big Bash, thank you for coming home again. If you made a gift to Wabash, thank you for helping to fulfill another young man's Wabash dream. If you picked up the phone, wrote an email, texted, messaged on Facebook or reached out in any other way to communicate with a classmate about the reunion, thank you. If you signed the book, thank you. If you sang on the steps of the Chapel, thank you. If you sat around late in the evening eating pizza and playing euchre, thank you. All of these things and more made Big Bash 2013 the huge success that it was.

I would also like to say we are sorry. We are sorry if you could not make it back to Wabash for our reunion, because you were missed there. We are sorry if we failed to reach out to you and invite you back properly, because we wanted you there with us. And we are sorry we did not get to spend more time together over the past weekend, because it was great fun.

We had 61 classmates (really 62 but the book was locked up) come back for our Reunion. Five years ago that number was 13. I was completely blown away and humbled by your turnout at the 'Bash. We shattered the old 25th Reunion record, set in 1974, of 54 attendees with our showing, something the Class of '89 is already talking about. We were second only in attendance to the Class of '63 who had 69 men back to celebrate their 50th Reunion and, frankly, I didn't mind losing to them.

The Alumni Office challenged us with a donor goal of 75 gifts to Wabash; we stretched the goal to 88, a much more poetic number in my opinion. I am happy to report that we stuck the landing by coming in with exactly 88 gifts from the Class of '88 to Wabash. Though we did not earn the Edmund O. Hovey Annual Giving Award, because it is based on giving percentage, we did have the highest number of total donors from any reunion class at the Big Bash last weekend. Outstanding work gentlemen! I am also happy to report that the open bar the Class earned for its collective generosity to Wabash was well and fully appreciated at dinner on Saturday night. If you helped earn that, thank you again.

Putting us over the top in achieving our donor goals were the following gentlemen:

Bill Ahrbecker Todd Bailey Larry Hemingway Chuck Hurst Terry Jackson Marc Lorber
J.C. Morgan Rob Quirey Ali Raheem Mark Ratekin Doug Roepke Alan Vieck David Weir

On a less pleasant note, I am sorry to report that we did not win Chapel Sing. Though feedback from many spectators indicated we had a very strong showing, we were only awarded 3rd place by the judging panel. When a Buddhist monk is upset about the outcome of a contest it tells you how much we wanted that trophy.

Speaking of both Buddhist monks and speaking in general, I would like to extend particular thanks to Jotipalo Bhikkhu '88 and Dr. Garrard McClendon '88. These two classmates delivered Colloquium sessions over Big Bash weekend that were quite simply amazing. When Tobey Herzog is quoting you at dinner, you have done something well. When he offers to sell your grades you have done something amusing, but you can ask Scott Quick about that. To my friends Jotipalo and Garrard, thank you again for not only speaking, but for leaving a lasting impression that people talked about all weekend long. **Some Little Giants!**

Big Bash 2018 is five years away now. No, I'm not going to start nagging you to attend or sign the book, well, not yet anyway. But, there are some things we would like to know. Whether you were at Big Bash this past weekend or not, please consider the following questions and reply to me on those questions that would be applicable to you.

- What did you enjoy most about Big Bash 2013?
- What did you enjoy least about Big Bash 2013?
- What could we do better/differently at the Big Bash?
- What could we do better/differently in preparation for the Big Bash?
- If you brought you spouse/partner what would could we do to better engage them at Big Bash?
- How did the hotel and hospitality suite work out for you?
- How could we improve upon the hospitality suite?
- If you did not attend Big Bash, how can we change your mind next time?
- Did you like the Reunion shirts and would you order one for our next reunion?

I look forward to hearing your responses to these questions and any other thoughts you might have for us as we think ahead to our next Big Bash. In the interim, however, too many of us had too much fun to wait five long years to do this again. What would you think of holding some Mini Bashes between now then? Perhaps center them around various sporting events throughout the year? Maybe coordinate a dinner or a cookout to go along with them? Please include your thoughts on this along with your responses to the questions above. You can send all of that to me via email if you like.

In closing, I would like to share some personal thoughts. Several of you were very generous in extending your thanks and appreciation to me for doing the work I did on the Big Bash. The Alumni Office was very kind in presenting me with the Dorman Hughes Award for the effort I put into the reunion. Having 62 guys back was more than I ever expected, I wanted to take a run at the attendance record but never really thought we would get there. The standing ovation at dinner on

Saturday night brought tears to my eyes, I was truly humbled by that and thank everyone who was there for that very special moment.

In fact, all of these things mean quite a lot to me, they are memories I will hold dear for the rest of my life. But, they are not what originally motivated me to put in the time, make calls, write letters, nag all of you and, metaphorically speaking, kidnap a monk. The motivation for me was simply to see so many of my friends, so many of my brothers, spending time together, telling stories, laughing and genuinely enjoying the presence of each other's company once again. Five years ago there were just too many people missing from the table. That is why I wanted to work on our reunion, our brotherhood means that much to me. It took me a long time to realize that Wabash College and my classmates are some of the most important things in life to me; now that I know it I will never forget it again. As we get older our values seem to change, what was once important seems to tarnish and what is truly important in life gains new luster. Things like old friends and familiar places, taking time to relax, listening to stories that, perhaps, we've heard a dozen times before, but which are still worth hearing again just because of the person telling them. I hope in some small way these things are important to you as well.

That is also why we are going to do it all over again, why we will be even more inclusive and why we will put even more effort into our 30th reunion in five years. Besides, I figured you guys weren't going to let me off the hook after this year's Big Bash. Runge warned me of a drop off in attendance after the 25th reunion because it is one of those milestone numbers. Greg Redding had it right, it's just a number, no different from 20 or 30, it is what we put into the event that matters, not what we label it. The all-time attendance record was set at a 40th reunion, not the 25th or 50th that get all the press. Our goals for our 30th reunion are very simple. We want 81 guys back, we want 100 donors and we want the Chapel Sing trophy. Both of these numbers I mentioned for our goals would set a record for the Big Bash, the competitor in me wants those records (and the Chapel Sing trophy).

Honestly though, I had such a good time this past weekend that I really just want to be amongst my brothers once again, however many that may be, in a place that I love. To echo my comments at dinner on Saturday night, it was like the conversations never stopped, we just picked them up again as if after a long weekend or perhaps a summer break. I didn't feel 25 years removed from my friends, instead I felt like we were back on campus, together again, returning from break and getting ready for another term, we just had more stories to tell and a bit more grey hair.

So, from the bottom of my heart, to those who attended, to those who recruited, to those who gave, to those who spoke, to those who sang and to those who wanted to be there but were unable to attend, I appreciate each and every one of you for making this the best Class of '88 reunion ever and making all the effort worth it. I really can't fully and properly express my gratitude to you so I will close by simply saying thank you my brothers.

I hope to see you back at the 'Bash sooner rather than later.

Greg Teague '88

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